



Vinton Notices for the Week Ending April 4, 2014

1. Parks and Rec Family Fishing Challenge
2. Vinton Books and Breakfast for Second Graders
3. Vinton PTA Bingo Night
4. Town of Mansfield Citizen's Budget Guide (4 pages)
5. Mansfield Community Playground Eggztravaganza 2014
6. Parks and Rec K-2 Lacrosse Registration

**PLEASE SEE
TAKE HOME NOTICES BELOW**



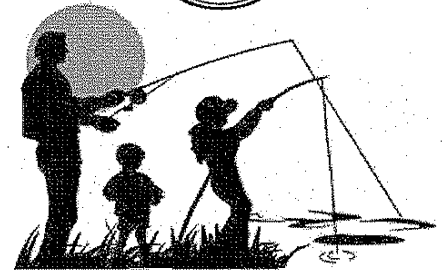


Mansfield
Community
Center

Town of Mansfield
Parks and Recreation Department



Mansfield Family Fishing Challenge!

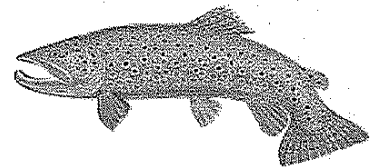


Who: FREE to All Mansfield Residents, Categories are 15 and under and 16 and older at each park.

What: Come out and go fishing at several of our Mansfield Parks. Take a picture of the fish you catch in front of the sign of the park you are at and submit them to the Mansfield Community Center. Winners will be chosen by largest fish in each park. Bring your tape measure and capture a picture of your catch. All entries must be submitted by May 26. Winners at each park will be posted on our website and be put in a drawing for a grand prize. One winner for each category will win a prize at all of the parks.

Where: River Park, Merrow Meadow Park, School House Brook Park (Bicentennial Pond), Eagleville Preserve and Mount Hope Park.

When: Starts Saturday, April 19 – Monday, May 26, 2014



Saturday, May 10, 2014 (Free Fishing Day)

No fishing license required on this date. In CT, individuals under 16 years of age may fish legally without obtaining a fishing license.

To get your fishing license go to: www.ct.gov/DEEP/sportsmenlicensing or your town clerk's office.

Why: To spend time quality time with family and friends at our beautiful parks.

Fish to look for: Black Crappe, Bluegill, Brook Trout, Brown Bullhead, Brown Trout, Chain Pickerel, Common Carp, Largemouth Bass, Northern Pike, Pumpkinseed, Redear, Sunfish, Smallmouth Bass, and Yellow Perch.



Books & Breakfast

for
Second Graders at
the Vinton School
Library



~FREE~

We will also provide free day-care for siblings.

Explore **science, technology, engineering and math** with your child! This is a 4-week program for 2nd grade students **and** their parents/guardians. Each time we meet we will focus on a **storytime & activity** that highlights one of the **STEM** topics.

Enjoy an hour with us just before school with healthy breakfast, stories & activities, and selecting library books with your child.



Day: Wednesdays
Time: 7:45 am to 8:45 am
Place: Vinton School Library
Dates: April 23rd, 30th, May 7th and 14th

*Limited to the first 8 students and their parents/guardians.
Adults must stay each week for the entire program.*

(return this section to the Vinton School Office by April 16th)

Student's Name _____

Student's Teacher _____

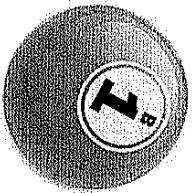
Parent/Guardian _____ Phone _____

Adult who will attend with student: _____

Do you or your child have food allergies? **YES NO** (If **YES**, specify _____)

Do you need daycare for siblings? **YES NO**

BINGO NIGHT



Thursday, April 10th

6:30PM - 7:30PM

Vinton Cafeteria

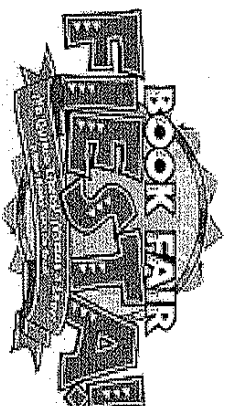


EVERYONE IS WELCOME!

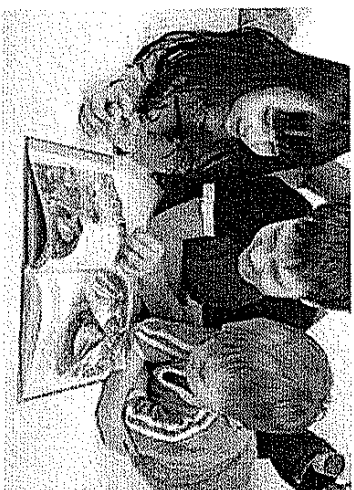
Free admission...Free BINGO Cards

Free Prizes!

Snacks and Drinks for purchase



**Celebrate
With Book
Fair Fiesta—
this spring's
featured
theme!**
[Learn More >](#)



Join us in sharing a love of reading with our students at the Annie Vinton Scholastic Book Fair from April 7th - 11th. It's a great way to connect your kids with books they want to read!

The book fair will be open during school hours on Monday, April 7th through Thursday, April 10th from 8:30-9:30AM and 3:30-4:00PM.

It will also be open Wednesday, April 9th before and after the 3rd and 4th grade play and on Thursday, April 10th during Family BINGO Night...from 6:00-8:00PM.

TOWN OF MANSFIELD & MANSFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION



Citizen's Budget Guide—2014 Edition

BUDGET PROCESS

Each year the Town prepares an operating budget and capital improvement program. The Town budgets for its anticipated program revenues and expenditures needed to provide services such as Pre K-12 education, fire and police protection, snow plowing, and a public library. Per state law, the Town operates on a July 1—June 30 fiscal year. Most of the key dates in the budget process occur in late winter and early spring. Electors and citizens are encouraged to actively participate in the budget process by attending budget workshops, public information sessions and hearings, and voting at the annual town meeting.

GENERAL FUND

What is the General Fund?

The General Fund provides for general purpose government services. In other words, the General Fund finances the regular day-to-day operations of the Town.

What types of activities does the General Fund provide for?

Examples of what the General Fund provides for are services such as education, public safety, streets maintenance, library services, senior services and general administration.

Where does the money for the General Fund come from?

The money that funds the General Fund comes from a wide variety of sources. The primary sources of revenue are local property taxes and related items (62%) and state revenue, such as support for education and payment in lieu of taxes (36%). Other sources include inspection fees, fines, grants, licenses, permits and other revenue (2%). For Mansfield, the Governor's proposed budget includes a decrease in payment in lieu of taxes (PILOT) monies of \$467,073 and a total decrease of state revenue of \$746,717. Key municipal leaders provided testimony regarding the impact of such a decrease in revenue to Mansfield. This lost revenue is equivalent to

0.7 mills, or a 2.5% tax increase.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR TAX CALCULATION

What is a mill rate?

The mill rate is used to calculate the amount of taxes a property owner pays to the Town. The Town of Mansfield established a mill rate of 27.95 mills for Fiscal Year 2013/2014. Under the proposed Fiscal Year 2014/2015 budget the mill rate would be 28.71 mills. One mill produces one dollar for each \$1,000 of property value. In other words, under the proposed budget, a property owner would pay \$28.71 in property taxes for every \$1,000 of "assessed" value.

How are my taxes calculated?

In Connecticut, your property taxes are calculated based on 70% of your home's current market value, or its "assessed" value. For example, the median single family home price in Mansfield is \$242,700. The assessed value of a \$242,700 home is \$169,900. Your tax bill is calculated as follows:

$$\frac{(\text{Assessed Value} \times \text{Mill Rate})}{1000} = \text{Amount Due in Taxes}$$

Where Does the Money Go?

General Fund Expenditures by Service Area FY 2014/2015 Proposed Operating Budget

Mansfield Board of Education	\$21,175,314
Region 19 Contribution	\$10,063,990
Public Safety	\$ 3,532,325
Government Operations (inc. energy)	\$ 2,332,365
Public Works	\$ 2,053,800
Community Services	\$ 1,572,960
Community Development	\$ 557,270
Other/Town-Wide (benefits, capital etc.)	\$ 5,623,700
TOTAL:	\$46,911,724

Using the example of a home valued at the median single family home price in Mansfield, a typical single family homeowner would pay as follows next fiscal year:

$$(\$169,900 \times 28.71)/1000 = \$4,878$$

Property taxes are often perceived as a regressive means of taxation. Due to statutory limitations, the Town has a nearly impossible task of diversifying its revenue base in such a way that would create a more progressive tax structure.

STORRS CENTER IMPACT ON PROPERTY TAXES

How are my taxes impacted by Storrs Center?

The Storrs Center development is generating revenue for the General Fund. Storrs Center revenues exceed Storrs Center related expenditures, providing a net gain in "new growth" tax revenue for the Town of \$340,900. Without Storrs Center tax revenue, the proposed mill rate would be 29.17 mills, a tax increase of 4.36%. With Storrs Center tax revenue, the proposed mill rate is 28.71 mills, a tax increase of 2.71%; this is a difference (savings) of 0.46 mills, or 1.6% tax increase. Tax revenue generated from the Storrs Center development lessens the burden on residential taxpayers to fund municipal services. Mansfield's share of the Downtown Partnership operating budget and the Transportation Center are funded with Storrs Center tax revenue.

Storrs Center Revenue: A Snapshot

Estimated Revenue	\$1,273,300
Less Abatement	(715,000)
Net Taxes	\$ 558,300
Less Operating Costs	(217,400)
Less Tax Relief for GF	(112,260)
Net Tax Revenue to Reserve Account	\$ 228,640

PROPERTY TAX RELIEF

I need help paying my taxes. Where do I go for help?

Mansfield offers some property tax abatement programs. Taxpayers that may be eligible for property tax relief include veterans, seniors, disabled persons, and farm owners. Information about tax abatement programs in Mansfield, including eligibility requirements can be obtained by contacting our Assessor's Office at 860-429-3311, our Human Services De-

BUDGET VIEWING LOCATIONS

**Mansfield Public Library
Mansfield Community Center
Mansfield Senior Center
Mansfield Town Clerk's Office
www.mansfieldct.gov**

Proposed budgets are now available and may be viewed during normal business hours at noted public locations.

partment at 860-429-3315 or on the web at www.mansfieldct.gov.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM

What's a capital improvement project?

It is construction, renovation or physical improvements, or equipment costing more than \$5,000.

What's a capital improvement plan?

Annually, the Town prepares and revises a five year plan for all capital projects. The plan accounts for anticipated revenues and expenditures that will be used to fund capital projects.

Where does the revenue come from to fund capital projects?

A variety of revenue sources are used such as monies from the General Fund, grants, and bond issues.

What's the Capital and Nonrecurring (CNR) Fund?

The CNR Fund is primarily used for conducting transfers to other funds. It has typically been used to fund capital projects and one time expenditures.

What are some examples of our current capital projects?

Examples of some upcoming capital projects include transportation improvements, street resurfacing, purchase of replacement fire apparatus, and software upgrades.

DEBT MANAGEMENT

Just like citizens often borrow money for large purchases such as homes and vehicles, so do towns. Towns often borrow money for large purchases with useful lives exceeding 15 years. Money is usually borrowed by issuing bonds. Mansfield has, for example, issued bonds to pay for renovations to the Public Library and to the elementary and middle

schools.

Mansfield's debt is significantly less than its legally allowable limits for debt. In fact, Mansfield has one of the lowest debt per capita rates in the state; in 2012 Mansfield ranked 161 out of 169 towns at \$416 per person (source: CT Office of Policy and Management, Municipal Indicators).

What is debt service?

Debt service provides for the payment of debt related expenses.

Why is it in the Town's interest to have a favorable bond rating?

Better bond ratings mean that the Town's bonds are considered to be a good investment. Good bond ratings are also evidence that the Town is financially healthy. A bond rating is the primary factor in determining the interest rate that the Town needs to pay on debt. The better the bond rating, the more likely it becomes that the Town will pay lower interest rates on debt.

Does the Town have a favorable bond rating?

Both Standard and Poor's and Moody's have given Mansfield very favorable bond ratings.

Town of Mansfield Bond Rating

Moody's Investor's Service Aa2

FUND BALANCE

What is a fund balance?

A fund balance is the excess of revenues over expenditures for a fund. A fund balance protects the Town against catastrophic revenue losses and major emergency expenditures. Examples include severe economic downturns and extreme weather conditions such as hurricanes and other natural disasters.

How much needs to be in the General Fund balance for the Town to be considered financially healthy?

A healthy fund balance contributes to the Town's favorable bond ratings. Bond rating agencies advise that the General Fund reserve be kept to at least 10 to 15% of the total general fund revenues. Additionally, Mansfield has a fund balance policy goal of maintaining the unrestricted fund balance at 17% of

the general fund operating budget. It is estimated that on June 30, 2014 fund balance will be at 7.6% of the operating budget. Policy makers and leaders are working to improve the fund balance and a \$100,000 contribution is included in the proposed Fiscal Year 2014/2015 budget, bringing fund balance to an estimated 7.7% of the projected budget.

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Each year the voters in Mansfield have an opportunity to vote to approve or reject the Town Council's proposed budget for the Town. The Mansfield Board of Education budget is also included in the proposed budget presented to the electors.

When is the Town Meeting held?

The Town Meeting will be held on May 13, 2014 at 7:00pm at the Mansfield Middle School Auditorium. For the Town Meeting, the Town's Human Services Office makes childcare, hearing impairment, and transportation accommodations (elderly and disabled) for citizens upon request. **Persons with childcare, transportation, or sign language interpretation requests should contact the Human Services Office at 860-429-3315 by May 6, 2014.**

Who may vote at the Town Meeting?

Any person who is registered to vote and any citizen of the United States over the age of 18 who owns property (motor vehicle or land) in Mansfield valued at \$1,000 or more may vote at the Town meeting. Citizens can register to vote by contacting the Registrars of Voters, Andrea Epling and Bev Miela at 429-3368.

How do I vote on the budget at the Town Meeting?

Electors have the ability to vote to accept, increase or decrease program expenditures. General Fund programs are defined as cost centers within functions of government i.e. Mansfield Board of Education, Library, Road Services, Senior Services. Capital Fund programs are defined by the major functions of government i.e. General Government, Public Safety, Public Works, Facilities Management and Community Services. Capital & Nonrecurring Fund programs are defined by the recipient of the fund transfer i.e. debt service fund, property revaluation fund. Mansfield utilizes program based budgeting so programs are clearly presented in the materials for the Town Meeting.

MANSFIELD BOARD OF EDUCATION BUDGET PROCESS

Mansfield Board of Education (MBOE) provides for education of Mansfield students in grades PreK-8. MBOE has its own elected board of officials. In the fall, the Superintendent begins to prepare his proposed budget to the Board. The Superintendent's budget is submitted to the Board in January. After a series of meetings in the winter, the Board adopts a proposed budget that is then submitted to the Town Council for its consideration. Council has the ability to increase or decrease the MBOE budget as a whole; it cannot be increased or decreased by program or line item. The MBOE budget is then submitted with Council's proposed budget to the electors at the annual Town Meeting. Voters have the legal ability to approve, increase or decrease the MBOE budget as a whole.

REGION 19 BUDGET PROCESS

Regional School District 19 provides for education of Mansfield-Ashford-Willington students in grades 9-12. As a regional school district, Region 19 is a separate entity from the Town of Mansfield, with its own elected board of officials. Consequently, the Region's budget process and adopted budget are outside of the Town's legal control. The Superintendent submits his proposed budget to the Region Board during the winter. After a series of budget workshops, the Region 19 Board adopts a proposed budget that is then submitted to the voters of its three member towns. Registered voters in Mansfield-Ashford-Willington have an opportunity to vote on the Region's budget at a referendum held on May 6, 2014. Once the voters have approved a budget for the Region, Mansfield then has a legal obligation to appropriate funds for its proportionate share of the Region's budget. By state law, Mansfield's proportionate share is determined by the number of Mansfield students enrolled in classes at the Region.

BUDGET DATES TO REMEMBER

<i>Budget Workshops</i>	Through April 22nd
<i>Council Adoption of Budget</i>	Anticipated for week of April 28th, 2014
<i>Public Information Session #2</i>	May 7, 2014, 7:00pm Council Chambers

<i>Region 19 Budget Referendum</i>	May 6, 2014 6:00am - 8:00pm
<i>Annual Town Meeting</i>	May 13, 2014, 7:00pm Mansfield Middle School

Dates & times subject to revision. Check www.mansfieldct.gov for updates & other meeting information.



Opportunities to Let Your Voice be Heard

Public Comment, Town Council Meetings, 7:30pm,
2nd & 4th Mondays of Every Month, Council Chambers,
4 South Eagleville Road

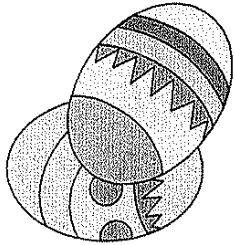
Comments can be submitted in writing to Council members:

Via email at TownCouncil@mansfieldct.org

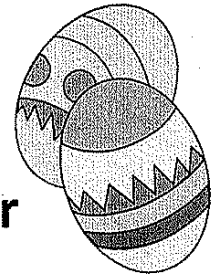
Hard copy in c/o of the Town Manager's Office, 4 South Eagleville Road, Mansfield, CT 06268

The Mansfield Community Playground Committee
Presents

Eggztravaganza 2014



Saturday, April 19th, 2014
Registration begins at 1pm
At the Mansfield Community Center
Come and join the fun!



There will be a holiday bake sale, crafts, egg hunts,
and an appearance by the Big Bunny!

Make a handprint tile for the playground! (\$25)

For Children from Birth – 10years

An Initiative of



Age Groups: 0-3, 4-6, 7-10

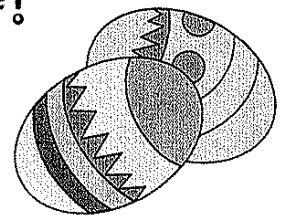
Suggested Donation \$2 per child
All donations will benefit
the Mansfield Community Playground



Don't forget your egg basket!



For more information,
contact Jean@MansfieldCommunityPlayground.org
www.MansfieldCommunityPlayground.org





Mansfield Parks & Recreation

Family, Fitness & Fun!

K-2 LACROSSE STILL ACCEPTING REGISTRATIONS **COME JOIN US!**

Play Begins April 12, 2014

(420067-A) **K-2 Introductory Division** Boys and girls play held Saturdays, April 12 - May 17, 10:00-11:15am. A great way to try out the sport! Creative skill work, activities and modified game-like play. Instructors provided by Mansfield Parks and Recreation. Volunteer support help is welcome.

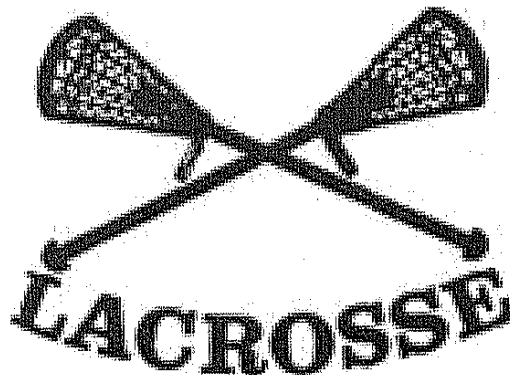
Required K-2 Equipment: Fiddle stick/young youth lacrosse stick and mouth guard.

Fees: \$35 for Mansfield residents and \$45 for non-residents

How to Register: *In person at the Mansfield Community Center, by mail or online (www.mansfieldcc.com) Registration must be completed in advance. No on-the-field registrations. Call (860) 429-3015, ext. 0 for more information. Registration form on next page.*

We welcome parent volunteers. Contact Parks and Recreation for mandatory background check information.

- *Bantam, Junior and Senior teams still accepting registrations. Visit us on line for more program information or contact us at 860-429-3015, 0.*



ACTIVITY REGISTRATION FORM

PLEASE CHECK REGISTRATION DATES. PLEASE PRINT CLEARLY!

MAIL TO: Mansfield Parks & Recreation Department
10 South Eagleville Road, Storrs/Mansfield CT 06268

Primary Household Contact/Parent/Guardian		Secondary Household Contact (Parent/Guardian)	
Name:		Name:	
Address:			
Town:	Zip		
Phone: (H)	(W)	Phone: (H)	(W)
(Cell)		(Cell)	
Email Address:		Email Address:	

LOCAL Emergency Contact (Other than parent/guardian, i.e., grandparent, neighbor, etc.)

Name:	Phone:
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Activity # /Letters	Activity Name	Participant's Last Name	First Name	Birth Date	Sex	Fee
Contribution to Scholarship Fund						
TOTAL:						

☐ Please Check here if you have purchased a Community Center Membership.

Some Mansfield residents may be eligible for low-income fee reductions. Check with the Parks & Recreation Office for more information and an application

Also fill details below for each participant:

	Grade (if child)	School (if child)	Allergies, Special Asst., Meds, Other Info:
1.			
2.			
3.			

PAYMENT INFORMATION: Please make checks payable to: Town of Mansfield

Payment method: Check _____ Cash (in office only) _____ AMEX/DS/MC/Visa (in office only) _____
(separate checks required for each program)

Credit Cards accepted on line and in person only

Signature _____

Date _____

WAIVER OF PARTICIPANT BY PARENT OR SFLF: I hereby agree to release, discharge, and hold harmless the Town of Mansfield, its directors, officers, employees, agents, contractors, and/or volunteers from any and all liability that may occur during either my participation or the participation of my minor child in the above listed recreational activities. I understand that participation in any recreational or sport activity involves risk, and I grant permission to the Town of Mansfield to utilize any medical emergency services it deems necessary to treat any injuries that I or my minor child may incur. I further understand that the Town of Mansfield does not provide insurance for recreational program participants. PHOTO RELEASE: I understand that for promotional purposes the Town videotapes and/or takes photographs of participants enrolled in recreation activities, classes or programs. I hereby release and permit the Town of Mansfield to utilize for said promotional purposes any photographs and /or videotapes of me or my minor child engages in the above listed recreational activities.

Signature _____

Date _____